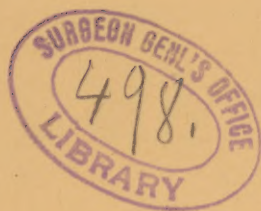


THOMPSON (H. P. P.)

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Typhoid fever

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## TYPHOID FEVER.

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BY H. PERCIVAL PARR THOMPSON, M. D.,

WOODSTOCK, VA.

During the greater part of the year the scourge of the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, so often justly termed the garden spot of Virginia, is typhoid fever, that dread malady upon the specific treatment of which no *fiat lux* has ever been pronounced. I am aware that enough has been written upon this disease to fill volumes, and my only apology for adding to this great mass of literature is the hope that this brief sketch may prove of some slight benefit.

By way of preface, allow me to state my usual plan of treatment for the adult. If the patient is seen early and the bowels are constipated, I give Hydrarg. Chlor. Mit., gr.  $\frac{1}{20}$  to  $\frac{1}{10}$ ; Pulv. Ipecac, gr.  $\frac{1}{20}$ ; Podophyllin, gr.  $\frac{1}{10}$ ; Sodæ Bicarb., gr. ij., in each pill, every one or two hours until the bowels are moved, or until sixteen doses have been taken; and if there is no movement within three hours





after the last dose is taken, one-sixth of a seidlitz powder is given every hour until the desired result is accomplished. If, however, there is diarrhoea when the case is first seen, Pil. Plumb. Acetas, gr. ss. to 1, et Opii Pulv., gr. ss., is administered every two to four hours, according to the profuseness of this condition, until it is checked. At the same time I begin with the following treatment, which is kept up throughout the disease: Quinia (Bisulph.) in tonic doses, gr. ij., and a diaphoretic, preferably Spts. Aether. Nit. gtt. xxv., every four hours, day and night. The diet is four to six (rarely as much as six) tablespoonfuls of milk every two hours. I never give an antipyretic unless distinctly indicated; *i. e.*, unless the temperature is above 103° F. I then give antikamnia, acetanilide, or phenocoll, two and one-half grains, every three or four hours until it falls to 103° F., when the drug is immediately discontinued. It rarely requires more than one dose to reduce the temperature to the desired point, 103° F. A temperature of 102° to 103° F. in typhoid does no harm; it is the natural course of the disease, and any attempt to interfere too officiously with it, by the indiscriminate resort to antifebrics is almost invariably followed by untoward results, especially heart-failure. It is extremely seldom that I use a stimulant in typhoid, from inception to convalescence; for I have found that this increases the tendency to hyperpyrexia, accelerates and enfeebles the pulse, predisposes to hemorrhage, and induces a depression of vital energy, the patient dying of asthenia, not from the disease *per se*.

If the beginning of convalescence is tardy, a mixture of Oleum Terebinth. gtt. v. to x.; Mucil. Acacia, ℥x.; Glycerine, ℥xx.; and Aqua Menth. Pip. ad 3 j., every four hours, will hasten the healing of the intestinal lesions and accelerate recovery. If, after convalescence is established, it is unusually slow, 3 j. Spts. Frumenti, t. i. d. after meals, and Acid Hydrochl Dil. or Acid Sulphuric Dil., ℥iij. to v. in water, t. i. d., before meals, will prove of much benefit.

The above treatment has afforded me the greatest satisfaction, and I take pleasure in recommending it. During this year 1892, I have treated fourteen cases, all successfully, by this method. Excessive tympanites rarely appeared, and when present was readily relieved by Salol, grs. v., every four hours, and Turpentine Stupes.

The tendency of the day seems to be toward over-treatment or rash empiricism, and the causes are to be found in the wild rush for fame or notoriety engendered by competition upon every hand, or in the innumerable chemical products which annually flood the market, each one claiming paramount virtues. Medicine is essentially an empiric science, and I would be foolish to advocate cessation of experimentation; neither would I close one laboratory; but the ruthless discarding of old, tried, and true remedies for uncertain innovations is to be deplored. In the instance of typhoid I allude to the so-called German method, which excludes quinia altogether. I tried it conscientiously in the City Hospital of Charleston, S. C., and it proved beautifully useless; two out of the cases in which it was used ending fatally.

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Interested by the foregoing report made by Dr. Thompson, the Antikamnia Chemical Company wrote him immediately after its appearance in the *Medical Record*, with the view of ascertaining whether or not his observations would justify a preference among the antipyretics used.

His reply, hereto subjoined, is noteworthy.

WOODSTOCK, VIRGINIA, Feb. 28th, 1893.

*Gentlemen:*—In my article upon Typhoid, (*Medical Record*, 18th inst.), I placed Antikamnia first in the list of antifebrics, because it is my preference. I used acetanilid and phenocoll in order that I might compare their merits with your product. As the results were in no way equal to Antikamnia, I saw no reason to abandon your preparation which is one of the most useful and satisfactory drugs of my "Materia Medica."

It seems to have an especial usefulness in congestive affections of the brain, especially in children. I have had two very interesting cases and I attribute a great deal of the good results to Antikamnia.

Very respectfully yours,

H. PERCIVAL PARR THOMPSON, M. D.







